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March 22, 2004

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**Art Unit 3743**
**Examiner: Kathryn Odland**
**Confirmation No.: 8025**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 09/881,080; Filed: June 12, 2001
For: **Tip Seal Tip Attach**
Inventors: GUINAN *et al.*
Our Ref: P936 US (1737.2900000)

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Reply to Restriction Requirement; and

2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Albert L. Ferro
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,679

ALF/awt/rjv
Enclosures

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
GUINAN *et al.*
Appl. No.: 09/881,080
Filed: June 12, 2001
For: **Tip Seal Tip Attach**

Confirmation No.: 8025
Art Unit: 3743
Examiner: Kathryn Odland
Atty. Docket: P936 US (1737.2900000)

## Reply to Restriction Requirement

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated February 20, 2004, requesting an election of one invention to prosecute in the above-referenced patent application, Applicant hereby provisionally elects to prosecute the invention of Group I, represented by claims 1-5. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed.

This election is made without traverse. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, and consideration and allowance of all pending claims, are respectfully requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees

required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

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Date: March 22, 2004

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